

WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL



SPRING
GARDEN
COMPETITION
2021

ENTRY FORM

ENTRIES OPEN 19 JULY

Close 4pm 14 September 2021

Send your completed forms to: Community Projects Officer
Events, Wollondilly Shire Council, PO Box 21, Picton NSW 2571

OR email to council@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au



SPRING GARDEN COMPETITION 2021

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ENTRY FORM

ENTRIES OPEN 19 JULY
Close 4pm 14 September 2021

Name _____

Address _____ Post Code _____

Nearest Cross St _____

Phone _____ Email _____

I/We have read and agree to abide by the Terms and Conditions attached to this form.

I/We understand that non-compliance may result in permission to participate being withdrawn.

I acknowledge that images of my garden and surrounding inclusions may be exhibited publicly and/or used within media promotions.

Signature _____ Date _____

Please select your Garden Category:

- | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Best Environmentally Sustainable Garden | <input type="checkbox"/> Best Rural Garden | <input type="checkbox"/> Best Edible Garden |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Best Senior's Garden | <input type="checkbox"/> Best Community Garden | <input type="checkbox"/> Best School Garden |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Best Small Residential Garden | <input type="checkbox"/> Best Flower Garden | <input type="checkbox"/> Best Business/Commercial Garden |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Best New Garden | <input type="checkbox"/> Best Courtyard Garden | <input type="checkbox"/> Best Staff Garden |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Best Large Residential Garden | <input type="checkbox"/> Best Native Garden | |

Entries Close

14 September 2021

Judging

Commences 27 September 2021

Presentation

At the Spring Garden Expo
30 October 2021

Prizes Awarded for the following Categories

- Grand Champion Award
- Encouragement Award(s)
- Best Environmentally Sustainable Garden
- Best Seniors Garden
- Best Small Residential Garden
- Best New Garden
- Best Large Residential Garden
- Best Rural Garden
- Best Community Garden
- Best Flower Garden
- Best Courtyard Garden
- Best Native Garden
- Best Edible Garden
- Best School Garden
- Best Business/Commercial Garden



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KEY DATES

- 19 July 2021 Applications Open
- 14 September 2021 Applications Close
- 27 September 2021 - 1 October 2021 Judging
- 16 - 17 September 2021 Judging of School Entries
- 30 October 2021 Winners will be announced at the Spring Garden Expo

ABOUT THE SPRING GARDEN COMPETITION

Wollondilly Shire Council has a long and proud history of conducting the Spring Garden Competition. Established in 1997 this community event has been held annually for more than twenty years. Wollondilly Shire Council is one of the few local councils still organising and providing a garden competition for its local residents and community.

The Spring Garden Competition is a popular community event with entries from a wide variety of landscapes including traditional back gardens, large and small gardens, rural acreage, native gardens, business and commercial spaces, community gardens and school communities.

With fourteen (14) categories to enter, there is certainly something for everyone.

SPRING GARDEN COMPETITION CATEGORIES

Grand Champion Award

This will be awarded to the garden which achieves the highest overall points as allocated by the judging panel.

Judges Encouragement Award(s)

This will be awarded to a garden/s where there is obvious enthusiasm, eagerness to learn new techniques and gardening strategies and clear improvements to the previous landscape.

Best Environmentally Sustainable Garden

This award will be presented to the garden judged as being most sustainable, incorporating the following: maintenance with a minimal environmental footprint, use of locally-sourced or recycled materials, demonstrated low-level water requirements through plant choice, mulching and collection of rainwater, growing and/or propagating own plants and produce, composting and exhibiting overall good environmental practices.



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Best Senior's Garden

This category is open to residents aged over 65 years where the entrant has personally established and maintained their own garden. This can include private homes, retirement villages and nursing homes; pot gardens will be considered.

Best Small Residential Garden

Gardens entered into this category are considered to cover an area less than 1000 square metres.

Best New Garden

This category is open to residents whose garden is less than 3 years old.

Best Large Residential Garden

Gardens entered into this category are considered to cover an area between (1000² - 4000² metres).

Best Rural Garden

Gardens entered into this category are considered to cover an area greater than 4000² metres. This can include the whole garden or a part of it.

Best Community Garden

Entries for this category must have a high level of contribution and collaboration from community volunteers working together to plan and manage the garden. Practices of community engagement and participation are highly valued in this category. Entries where maintenance of the garden/park is assisted by the Wollondilly Shire Council are still eligible for consideration but will be weighed against other entries.

Best Flower Garden

Entries in this category are focused on providing an abundance of eye catching colour and fragrance stemming from vibrant displays of spring annuals and / or seasonal flowering shrubs.

Best Courtyard Garden

This category can include, but is not limited to, courtyards, pot gardens, balconies, and terraces.

Best Native Garden

Entries in this category must consist of a significant proportion of Australian Native plants, and should provide habitats and food sources to encourage native fauna.



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Best Edible Garden

Entries in this category can be: Vegetable gardens, fruit gardens, culinary herb gardens, bush tucker gardens or gardens that are a combination of all of these. Gardens entered must contain consumable produce.

Best School Garden

For this category, 'school' is defined as any educational institution including preschools, childcare, primary schools, high schools, special schools. Entries in this category must demonstrate that the garden has predominantly resulted from the work of the students, with a connection between the garden and knowledge gained in the classroom an advantage. The garden can be of any variety.

Best Business / Commercial Garden – includes gardens professionally maintained.

Gardens in this category can be of any size, and include places of worship, hospitals, industrial properties, businesses, nursing homes, schools, community areas, retail premises and hotels. The gardens can be of any variety.

Best Staff Garden

This category is open to Council employees and their immediate families who would like to enter the competition. There is no prize associated with this category

JUDGING OF ENTRIES AND JUDGING CRITERIA

All entries in the Spring Garden Competition will be personally judged by a panel of appointed garden judges and horticulture professional. Wollondilly Shire Council will contact entrants to confirm their allocated judging time slot for the judging panel to view each Spring Garden Competition entry. Judging will take place from the end of September to early / mid October.

It is preferable that Spring Garden Competition entrants are present at their allocated judging timeslot and during the judging of their entry. Judging generally takes between 10 – 30 minutes depending on the size and nature of the entry. Entrants are encouraged to show the judges around their garden. The judges may ask the entrant some basic questions about their garden and gardening practices.

Judging will be based on the following key factors:

- Maintenance - the lack of elements such as dead and diseased plants, well presented lawns and clipped shrubs, considered water usage and overall attention to detail.



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- Design - aspects such as layout, colour, use of line, form and texture, plant use and once again attention to detail within this context.
- Intent - the active participation of the entrant, level of knowledge and enthusiasm and extent of third party assistance.
- Environmental consideration - reduced water use, moisture retention strategies, recycling and reuse. Minimal pesticide and chemical use and plant selection.
- Natural environment - encouraging wildlife (provide a habitat or food source for local native fauna), use of native and local plant species and free of declared or environmental weeds.
- Creativity, innovation and passion – is the garden creative and innovative, does the garden reflect the Wollondilly region's unique environment?

The Judging panel will consist of:

- A Horticulturalist
- Two members of the Community (e.g. local garden club or previous winner)

SPRING GARDEN COMPETITION TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. Entry to the Wollondilly Spring Garden Competition is free
2. All entries must be based in the Wollondilly Local Government Area
3. Gardens belonging to Judging Panel members, Sponsors, Elected Members, Council Staff or their immediate families are only eligible to enter the Best Staff Garden category.
4. All prizes are awarded at the discretion of the Judging Panel, whose decision will be final and no correspondence will be entered into.
5. At the Judging Panel's discretion entries may be judged in categories other than the one entered.
6. The winners of the awards for each category cannot win the same category prize for three consecutive years.



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7. Local businesses will be approached to sponsor the prizes for the Spring Garden Competition.
8. First Prize and Highly Commended will be awarded for each category with exception of the Grand Champion and Mayors Encouragement Awards which will be individual Winner Awards only.
9. Garden owners agree to allow their gardens to be photographed by a nominated person from the Wollondilly Shire Council. Photographs may be reproduced in Wollondilly Shire Council promotional material to be used by Council at its discretion.
10. If requested, a successful applicant will also be available or willing to make a representative available for publicity purposes either in the local media or in a Council publication or other promotional material.
11. By entering the competition applicants agree to allow the Judging Panel access to view their garden during business hours, upon appointment.
12. Applicants will be required to submit a completed Spring Garden Competition Application Form by the due date. Application forms will be made available from Council's website.
13. Multiple category entries are not permitted.
14. Wollondilly Shire Council, nor the parties involved, will accept any responsibility or will be liable for any injury, loss or damage to an entrant's property as a result of participation in the Spring Garden Competition.



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SPRING GARDEN COMPETITION GUIDELINES

The electronic version accessible on Council's website and Council's electronic record system is the controlled version. Printed copies are considered uncontrolled – before using a printed copy verify that is the current version.

Personal information collected is held and used by Council under the provisions of the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act, 1998.

We would like to say thankyou to the following sponsors, without their support, this event would not be possible.

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